

2005 Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005)

Pend Oreille Conservation District



Most Significant Natural Resource Accomplishment

The Cedar Creek project consisted of removing two major fish passage barriers; a triple culvert on an access road and a log crib dam. In addition, the project involved improving fish habitat by constructing five rock vanes, two “J” hooks protecting a newly sloped outside bend, an engineered log jam, habitat rocks placed in the stream, planting over 700 native shrubs and trees, plus reseeded in native grasses. The project is a very important step in reestablishing Cedar Creek’s connectivity to the Pend Oreille River. Cedar Creek is critical *bull trout* habitat as designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The project was sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service who partnered with the POCD, the Conservation Commission Grant and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Mission of the Pend Oreille Conservation District

The Pend Oreille Conservation District is dedicated to protect, enhance, conserve and restore the natural resources of Pend Oreille County.

Water Quality Implementation

- * In addition to the Cedar Creek Project, three landowners planted over 800 plants in riparian areas to help stop erosion problems on the Pend Oreille River protecting approximately 350 feet of shoreline.
- * Phase I of a livestock crossing / bridge replacement project has been initiated to include engineering the project and purchase of the bridge. Phase II is being implemented in August 2005. Removing the old collapsed bridge will stop shoreline erosion and sedimentation problems on a stream listed on the 303(d) list for sediment.
- * Phase I of a livestock exclusion project consisted of purchasing the southern most cattle guard for a project on Cusick Creek. County road crews will install the cattle guard in August / September 2005 along with the northern most cattle guard paid for by the USFS. Completion of this project will protect close to one mile of Cusick Creek, by excluding livestock from over 50 acres of wildlife habitat and almost a mile of riparian habitat. Funding is provided through NRCS EQIP and partnering with POCD, Conservation Commission, the USFS and Pend Oreille County.



Watershed Planning HB 2514

Monday, May 23 was a memorable day for the local Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 62, Watershed Planning Unit. The Pend Oreille County Commissioners unanimously moved to adopt the *Pend Oreille Watershed Management Plan*. This was the culmination of six years of hard work on various aspects of watershed planning. During this period several significant documents were produced to aid in the development of the Watershed Management Plan. The Commissioner’s adoption of the Watershed Plan completes Phase III and will allow the Implementing Body (formerly the Watershed Planning Unit) to move forward into Phase IV, Implementation.



Natural Resource Improvements in 2005 - Summary

- * Tree sale – sold over 75,000 trees and shrubs for planting within Pend Oreille County.
- * POCD assisted landowners by contracting DNR prison crews to plant almost 20,000 reforestation trees.
- * The Town of Ione formally applied to become part of the Conservation District.

Professional Engineering

Two projects were surveyed and designed for POCD this year: one for the replacement of the bridge on Bear Paw Creek and the other for multiple improvements on Indian Creek.

The Pend Oreille Conservation District; working with partners to get conservation “on the ground”
(509) 447-5370 www.pocd.org

Marketing/Outreach & Education

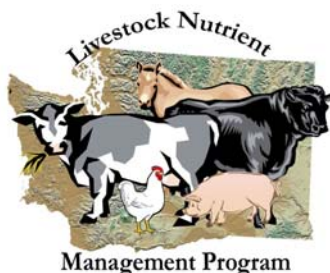
* POCD believes in an active natural resource, conservation and environmental educational program for children and adults alike and leads the way in the county when it comes to K-12 education (5th Grade Water Festival, Pend Oreille Regional Envirothon, 6th Grade Conservation Days, Natural Resource Day, 3rd Grade “Bugs in the Pond”, Washington State Envirothon). This year’s annual events for K-12 reached over 700 county students and more than 125 kids from Idaho and Spokane County. Businesses from both counties volunteer their personnel as well as funds to enthusiastically support Conservation District programs.

* Over 3500 copies of POCD’s “Watershed News” newsletters were either mailed or handed out this year.

* This year, POCD partnered with DNR, the USFS and the local community to educate over 1,500 county, private and home schooled students ages pre-school through fourth grade on fire safety and fire behavior in and around the home. The training included meeting Smokey Bear, touring the EDITH (Exit Drills In The Home) House showing kids how to safely exit homes and finally FireWise training on how to create “Defendable Space” between your home and forestlands. (Close to 70% of the land in the county is federal or state lands and most of the county’s residents live in rural areas with only volunteer fire departments to render aid.)



AFO / CAFO



The AFO/CAFO Education grant from the Conservation Commission was used to send two people to the training at the Sleeping Lady in Leavenworth. Following the training, POCD modified the survey/questionnaire developed at the meeting making it more user friendly and available to anyone accessing our website www.pocd.org. Once all the information was available on the site, 6,000 postcards were sent out, covering all post office boxes and rural routes asking people who had any kind or amount of livestock to go to the site or call the office for information. Within days, we were receiving calls from around the county pertaining to AFO/CAFO information to include three site visits.

Pend Oreille Salmonid Recovery Team (POSRT)

The POSRT is lead by a group of volunteer citizens with approximately 12 active members and is supported by a technical advisory group of 14 agency staff and local historians. Each group meets monthly promoting salmonid habitat recovery projects and conducting public outreach and education.

Six habitat restoration projects funded last year, four of which were sponsored by POCD including:

- * A fish passage barrier survey of over 100 stream miles totaling \$106,352 which is scheduled for completion June 2007
- * An irrigation diversion screening project which will install three screens effectively protecting over half of the 8 cfs. flow of a high priority bull trout recovery stream reducing fish entrainment and removing two associated fish passage barriers.
- * And two fish passage barrier removal projects, replacing three undersized culverts and one dam which were blocking fish migration collectively reconnecting over 16 miles of suitable native trout habitat.

District Reports

Completed the Pend Oreille Watershed Ranking (POWR) Grant (sponsored by DOE) assessing water quality and quantity over a three year period on 16 individual creeks. 6,426 water quality field samples taken, plus, 4,284 laboratory samples collected and analyzed. 1008 water quantity samples taken.

POSRT finalized and posted their habitat recovery strategy document entitled: *Strategy for Protection and Improvement of Native Salmonid Habitat in the Pend Oreille Watershed, Washington Water Resource Inventory Area 62* July 2005

Community Collaboration & Coordination

The POCD board and staff work hard to foster good relationships with our local and regional officials, State and Federal agencies, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and the men and women we serve in the community. As Lead Entity for the HB 2514 Watershed Planning Unit we were instrumental in bringing together a diverse mix of members and getting the Pend Oreille County Commissioners to adopt our Watershed Management Plan. As Lead Entity for HB 2496 Salmonid Recovery Team, we successfully garnered over \$1,000,000 in funding for stream restoration projects this past year. We’re proud of our record of accomplishments.

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